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19 June 1986.

G.C. GABLE

Some time ago you asked whether we could find any more details about G. C. Gable, a Communist Party candidate who stood in the Northfield ward of the Borough of Hackney in the local elections in 1962. Unfortunately Hackney Archive Department (who initially gave us the detailed result for Northfield) have no further information about Mr Gable, and the Electoral Registration Office at the Council no longer have the original details of unsuccessful candidates.

In the course of much long and almost fruitless searching I discovered that this person has never stood in a local election in London since 1962, and has never stood as a parliamentary candidate. I could find no trace of him in books or articles about the Communist Party, nor as a contributor to Marxism Today in the last four years.

However, at some point it occurred to me that this might be Gerry Gable, who writes for Searchlight, and who has been involved in controversy concerning his articles about the Conservative Party. So I tried to approach the problem the other way round, to see if I could find a statement that Gerry Gable of Searchlight had once stood as a Communist candidate in a local election in Hackney in 1962. The only biographical information I could find was in the Far Left Guide [1985], which had this entry:

SEARCHLIGHT

37B New Cavendish Street. London W1M 8JR

Associated bodies: Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (CARF).

Notes: A monthly magazine, specialising in investigative reporting of the extreme right. Edited by Maurice Ludmer, a former Communist Party member and president of Birmingham Trades Council. from 1975 until his death in May 1981.

Contributors: Gerry GABLE: formerly research director, Searchlight; sponsor. Anti-Nazi League; formerly researcher. London Weekend Television.

Veronica WARE: editor since May 1981.

However, this still did not prove that G.C. Gable , Communist candidate in Hackney in 1962 was one and the same person as Gerry Gable of Searchlight. So, in desperation, I telephoned Searchlight and spoke to Gerry Gable - without, of course, giving him your name. He was happy to confirm that he was indeed the G C. Gable who had stood as a Communist candidate in Hackney in 1962. He also told me that he had left the Communist Party in the same year and had even "on occasion voted Conservative".

I hope this helps.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Seaton

MISS JANET SEATON

MP,

JS/MW